

## **Student Assistance Program**

The Student Assistance Program (SAP) is a statewide initiative in Pennsylvania, jointly supported by the PA Department of Education and PA Department of Health and Welfare, aimed at helping schools identify and support students facing behavioral, academic, or attendance challenges that jeopardize their educational success. SAP teams, composed of educators, counselors, nurses, administrators, and community partners, collaborate to identify at-risk students, assess their needs, and connect them with appropriate school and community resources. Beyond academic support, SAP strives to enable students to stay in school, achieve their educational goals, and access essential services. By fostering partnerships with families and community agencies, SAP plays a crucial role in addressing issues such as substance abuse and mental health concerns, ensuring students receive comprehensive support to thrive academically and personally.

### ***Why would a student be referred to the SAP team?***

Students may be referred to the SAP team for a variety of reasons, including but not limited to:

- Withdrawal from friends, family, and/or activities
- Unexplained physical injuries
- Depression or other mental health problems
- Death and grief issues
- Talking about suicide or suicidal ideations
- Defying authority, both at home and school
- Experimenting with drugs and/or alcohol
- Declining grades
- Frequently missing from school or class
- Other factors that are having a negative impact on a student's academics, behavior, or attendance in school

### ***Who can make a SAP referral?***

Teachers, school staff, parents, and peers are the source of student referrals. Students may also seek help for themselves.

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### ***How do I make a referral?***

Parents, teachers, and students can make a referral to the SAP team. A SAP referral form can be picked up at our main office and returned to a main office secretary, or a form can be completed online by clicking <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/14y22d6CHmHNvn4YFeVLZYe4KGlerSbYyIzwe4YXj7xc/prefill>

### ***What happens after a referral is made?***

Once a SAP referral is received, the team will begin to collect information about the student's performance and behavior from a variety of sources: teachers, counselors, the school nurse, administrators, and other staff members as needed. All information is confidential. If a SAP referral is deemed appropriate, parental consent will be requested. The team will then analyze this information, along with input from the student and parents, in order to determine the best course of action for the student. Interventions may include additional academic and behavior support in school, in-school guidance services, referral to other school professionals, and/or referral to outside agencies or services.

### ***Who is on the SAP Team?***

The IAA SAP team consists of teachers, administrators, school specialists, and the SAP Liaison. The IAA SAP team includes:  
(listing of current SAP members)

### ***Are SAP referrals confidential? Will this go in a student's file?***

The entire SAP process is confidential and voluntary. A decision can be made at any time to stop the process. A SAP referral is not included in a student's cumulative file nor follows a student to other learning institutions or the workplace. It is not considered to be a disciplinary action and is solely designed to support students and families.